

# Central China Record.

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NANKING.

October, 1903.

*According to your faith be it unto you.*

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23.

MONDAY, CHINKIANG.

THURSDAY, KIUKIANG.

TUESDAY, NANKING.

FRIDAY, NANCHANG.

WEDNESDAY, WUHU.

SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG.

SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION.

## From Darkness to Light.

There are some who see no hope for China. It seems to be of her as was spoken of Israel centuries ago "This people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted."

Of the ruling class this indeed seems to be true. They are firmly resolved that neither they themselves, nor the empire which they rule shall be converted. That resolution if firmly adhered to sounds the death knell of China politically. But this dark covering of conservatism is being broken through in many places and the light which penetrates is adding new life to those who for many centuries have been laboring in darkness. And the renewed growth, which new light

brings is as certain to break up the old nation as roots which penetrate the rock crevices are to break the rocks asunder. The greater the increase of light the more rapid will be the new growth and in this lies the hope for China's millions.

Not simply are the benefits of a Christian civilization demanding recognition, but the light of the Gospel is working in all parts of the empire, and in many hearts working in its purest form. In the midst of all this darkness which surrounds them, many more, in all probability than are ever reported, live their lives of purity and light, and when they come to die enter into their rest with full consciousness that the Sun of Righteousness is beaming upon them.

The account of little, Ü Chen's death, found on another page, cannot but impress all who read. Truly "the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."

W. F. W.

### Not all Sunshine.

We print on another page an account of a trip which describes one missionary's experience. The itinerating evangelist is no master of his conditions, he must take what comes, or something worse. There are seasons in this part of China when for weeks there will be hardly a cloud in the sky, and it is during this time, the fall of the year, that the evangelist spends the most of the time upon the road. House-boat travel is the most comfortable way to visit the out-stations. But not all stations can be thus visited, nor can the stations be visited at all times of the year in this way. When the house-boats cannot be used, either on donkeys or afoot is the only way to travel. Neither of these is comfortable when the rain is heavy and the mud deep. Yet the evangelist must face even this with a smiling face and my experience is that most of them do.

W. F. W.

### "Where are the Nine."?

The large body of Missionaries gathered at Kuling this summer decided to issue a call, or rather unite in a request, that the centennial of Evangelical Missionary effort in China be fittingly observed by doubling the force of Missionaries now in the field. That means that during the four years intervening between now and the close of 1907 the number of Missionaries in China be doubled. But at the same moment we hear from our home office that the two men we asked for to be sent this autumn cannot be found.

This condition of affairs ought to give us pause. What is the trouble? We have the money for two married men and their families to come. But

there are *no* two suitable men to be found willing to come. In a Church numbering communicants by the million; efficient and successful pastors by the thousand; splendid young men in the colleges and seminaries by the hundred; and with the money in our hands to provide for it, our Bishops and Missionary Secretaries traveling the length and breadth of the land, acquainted with all the resources of the Church *can find but one of the two we asked, provided for, and so urgently need.*

Of course, not every man who would be successful in the ministry at home would be suitable for this field; some who would be suitable have sufficient reasons for not coming. Others, perhaps, are not yet properly informed on missionary lines. But still the LORD surely has a sufficient number of those whom HE wants to come to China, and to other foreign fields.

We realize that to many minds China is not the most desirable place to live in. We are asking for men, but we are not asking for anyone to come who has any other idea or aim than to glorify GOD by serving and enduring "for His sake" and for the salvation of this people. Of such we are greatly in need; but of no others. "Even Christ pleased not Himself." "Come over into China, and help us."

E. J.

### Wang U Chen.

A peculiar treasure was added to our Nanking Girls' Boarding School during these past summer months, that treasure is an Heavenly one. One of our girls was called away Home, to await us all up yonder. It is of her life and death I wish to write a few lines

Nearly four years ago when I first reached Nanking I was introduced to the girls in the school. Every thing around me was new and strange, a different style of dress, an odd race. As I sat there studying their faces, gradually certain ones seemed to impress me more than the others. This became so marked that I began to ask their names and you can imagine my wonder and almost awe, when with scarcely an exception, I found they were second and third generation Christians—so wondrously is the face changed when the light of the gospel shines through. One of the sweetest of these faces was that of little Wang U Chen. She was raised in a Christian home and never knew idolatry; but her own personal salvation dates from about a year before her death, when she received the spirit in full measure with power to govern her temper and live a glad, sweet life.

Her mother, a strong, Christian character, died a few years ago, leaving a loving husband and six little children.

As U Chen's disease advanced and she grew daily weaker and weaker, the quiet peace and assurance in her heart grew and as all hope of her recovery was given up the longing to get home became intense. It would almost seem that in this land where there is so much of spiritual deadness and darkness, the Lord grants to those who do trust Him, an unusual manifestation of His love and power when they come to the hard places. Even so now as U Chen was about to leave and those who loved her stood intently watching, Heaven seemed to open and her last words were, "I see my mother," then a moment later, Jesus has come to carry me home."

We shall miss her, we do miss her, but money could not buy her brief, sweet record from the annals of our school.

M. L. R.

### A Memorable Trip.

A trip from Nanking to Luh Hoh at best is considerable more than a Sabbath day's journey. The distance to be travelled by land between the river and Luh Hoh by shortest land route is about thirteen miles,—the longer way by road is nearly twenty-three miles. The latter course has the advantage of permitting one to go straight across the Yangtse, a very great consideration when the wind is either contrary or high.

Sometime ago I had occasion to be returning from Nanking by the longer land route. I had left my donkey at P'u K'o in care of a servant on the way over. During the night there had been showers so that the roads were now quite soft. A favorable wind brought us across the river in a few minutes. The weather was quite unsettled but the Chinese predicted fair weather so we started out. We had not gone far when it began to sprinkle. The clouds did not seem very heavy but the prospect of a twenty mile donkey ride in the rain was not very pleasant.

The first strip of road lays through a marsh thrown up a little to avoid the tide water. Presently the rain came pouring down. The lower places in the road, already muddy, were soon covered with water. The mud splashed up and soon my shoes were a sight to behold. Four miles of this kind of road brought us to P'u K'o village. It was a question whether we ought to go on or not. The prospect of harder roads and

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the slacking up of the shower decided the point and we went on.

Altho the country roads here are thrown up high and dry above the rice fields, the road itself is nearly always lower in the middle than at the sides so that in wet weather there is a stream of water where you ought to walk. Presently a new shower broke upon us with driving wind which continued throughout the day. The poor donkey was strong and under ordinary circumstances, a fast traveler, but the constant slipping and plunging took the spirit out of him. Many, many times he slid on the slippery clay until it seemed that a bath in the ditch was inevitable. The muddy water filled the gulley on either side often to a depth of six feet. As I rode along I prayed that I might be spared a sudden plunge and I am thankful to say the donkey always managed to gather himself.

When we were all so tired that we thought we could go no farther we came to a mud hut with a piece of matting out over the path. A

country tea-house. I fully made up my mind to stay there all night, but upon entering we found the place occupied by a great number of stranded travellers, with a like purpose! There was scarcely a place to sit down and no place, for my donkey.

We drank a cup or so of hot tea, gave the donkey a few Chinese doughnuts, and started on as before. After this I was constantly on the outlook for some place to put up, but failed to find a house that presented any thing like an hospitable appearance until about six o'clock we came to the little village of Ko-t'an-si, about twelve miles from Luh Hoh. We enquired for an inn. At the first place a nervous old woman came out and refused to let us in.

While the friendly neighbors were exhorting her to receive us, to my great surprise, a young man, an enquirer from Luh Hoh, came up and led me along till we came to the most respectable inn in town. We were received with something that approached cordiality and presently we were baking our shoes over a brick stove. The people crowded in to ask questions and examine the foreigner's equipment. Very soon an opportunity was given to preach which I did to a very respectful crowd until supper was prepared. While eating my rice I was permitted to see a divine purpose in this trying providence. The wife and mother of the inn-keeper had previously heard the gospel, and their hearts had been opened by the Holy Spirit. They sat by me asking vital questions and eagerly listening until ten o'clock. The matter of retiring seemed very gloomy. In the same room where I had eaten were some twelve cows, baskets of ducks and

hens, hogs big and little running at large, one dog, a stray cat or so, besides the dozen or more guests that had dropped in for the night. I had the honor to be shown to the "guest chamber," a little enclosure separated from the main room by reeds plastered over with mud. Spider-webs heavy with soot hung from the roof. The bed enclosed with a coarse cloth awning was provided with two heavy blankets padded with cotton. There was one other bed next to mine outside the screen occupied by a sick baby with a bad cough! The Chinese guests lay on straw spread on the floor.

I bade my friends outside good night and retired to my enclosure. A small round wick from a tin can served as a lamp. Seeing no matches and fearing that I might be wakeful during the night, I called the landlord and had him buy me a box from the street. I surveyed my bed and sat down on a box to read my Bible and meditate. Discovering that my oil was scarce I made haste to retire. Wrapped in my mackintosh I lay down using my lunch box wrapped in a towel for a pillow. There were too many interruptions for quiet sleep, but it was not the chorus of snores, nor the child's barking cough nor any of the noises of the night that disturbed me most! The travellers worst foe in China is small, works silently, and most often in the dead of night. I was glad when the morning sun turned the black of sky to gray. We started out early. The conditions had not been improved any by the steady pour of rain all night and it was still raining. It was a long hard pull that brought me to Luh Huh in time for the the morning clinic, but I felt satisfied. It was God's mercy for those two anxious souls who needed to

have the way of life made plainer. Had the circumstances been less insurmountable I should have pressed on and so lost the privilege.

### Chinkiang Chips.

Upon Dr. Hoag's return from Kuling, about Sept. 1, Dr. Talt and Miss Robinson, who had been keeping things going up to that time, betook themselves to the Chinkiang ladies' comfortable little bungalow in that delightful and restful place. These however, after a brief month, are again at their posts.

Bro. James also had a few weeks at Kuling, returning about the middle of August. His family returned at the close of Sept.

Bro. Longden had a very enjoyable time among the brethren of North China, visiting Peking, Tientsin, Peitaho, and other places.

Wang Shan Ch, our student helper at Chinkiang has returned after his seven weeks' vacation, rested in body and mind, and has taken up his work with much vim and devotion.

Li Yun Shen, our native pastor at Yangchow, has taken his wife and a couple of his youngest children for a rest and visit to their home in Shantung.

During the summer months some of the teachers and assistants at the Girls' School and Woman's Hospital have sojourned more or less time with Mrs. Katie Hoag Chen.

\* \* \* \* \*

That was *Then*. Now the wheels are turning again. First, in the way of building. We are beginning to remodel the hill chapel according to the plans of the Estimate Meeting. Bro. Longden is also in the midst of work on his new chapel in Yangchow.

The arrangement of the Sunday services has been changed and now our morning service is held in the large chapel at Yiu Hsin Kiai. The attendance is hopeful, though not yet to the capacity of the building. So far they are all men, but we hope it can soon be arranged for women to come also. The moving of the service does not at all contemplate a men's meeting separate from the women; but rather that that is to be the principal place and service for the entire church. Our Sunday-school is not yet organized there; but we are planning to start it soon.

Good harvests have made the people feel more contented and happy. With the terrible grinding poverty they are born, live, and die in, it is a wonder they are as approachable as they are now.

What with excessive heat, Ningpo poisoning, and a spell of dengue fever, I have had enough to attend to.

### Central Church Nanking.

We present the readers of the "Record" herewith a financial statement of the Central Church property.

To purchase of property, middle-men &c.	\$ 4635.63
To necessary repairs and alterations	<u>366.39</u>
Total Mexicans.	\$ 5002.02

Received on the above as follows.

From Local sources on the field.	\$ 449.00
" John C. Ferguson . . . . ,	100.00
" Mrs. L. M. Walley . . . . ,	10.00
" Bishop Moore, \$ 100. gold . . . ,	214.50
" Mrs. Sarah MacMahan.	
\$ 100. gold . . . . .	207.60
" Special fund. . . . .	764.16
" H. H. Holmes, \$ 20. gold . . . ,	41.50
Total Receipts . . . . .	\$ 1766.76

This leaves us a balance unprovided for of \$ 3215.24. Of this amount \$ 1200.00 and the interest on nearly the entire cost for one year is now due and must be paid. To meet this obligation we shall have to borrow the money. We appeal to the readers of the "Record" to aid us in meeting this obligation. The purchase of this property was a necessity to the successful carrying on of our evangelistic work in the heart of this great city. A little help from our friends will enable us to pay for this property and put us in good shape for extending the Redeemer's Kingdom. Those wishing to aid us in this work will please forward any amount they wish to give to Dr. H. K. Carroll, 150 Fifth Ave. N. Y. stating that it is for Central Church Nanking. Any amount will be most thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged.

DON W. NICHOLS.

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We offer the foreign residents in the Orient, a service that we believe is unequalled. We have been shipping family supplies to China and Japan for thirty years. The experience gained during that time is valuable and those who entrust us with their orders have the benefit of it.

Let it be understood that we do not solicit business on a basis of cheapness. It is not meant by this that we make more profit on the goods that we sell than others do, but that we sell the better class of goods.

Those who have favored us with a visit when passing through San Francisco, have become staunch friends, and customers of long-standing. To sell the best goods the world affords, at a reasonable profit, has been our policy, and it has proven a good policy for us.

There are but three larger retail grocers in America, than this house, but there is none that carries a higher grade of food-stuffs, nor a greater variety. To pack goods of different kinds in a case so as to arrive safely, we consider an art. Our men who do this work, have had long experience, and we receive letters from customers in different parts of the Orient, commanding the packing department as being efficient.

The Rev. W. C. Dodd wrote us on October 13th, 1897, on this subject, as follows :—

Cheung Hai, Lao, via Burma and Rahang,  
October 13th, 1897.

Messrs. Goldberg, Bowen & Co.,  
San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A.

Dear Sirs :—

It gives me great pleasure to report that the goods which we sent you the order for last February, arrived here a few days ago, by elephant from Cheung Mai. They had come from Bangkok in a native boat, poled all the way: and it is with pleasure that I report to you that they arrived in the best of condition, and so far as examined, are most satisfactory. Thank you for your promptness and your care in packing and forwarding. I have lived in the Orient more than ten years; and this is the first time that we have received properly packed goods from America. Henceforth I am not going to tell my friends that they must send to England for goods, if they wish them hermetically sealed.

And in due time you shall hear from us in the shape of another order.

With best thanks for kindness, I am,

Yours very sincerely,  
W. C. DODD.

We welcome your letters of inquiry, and will promptly furnish information concerning anything that we handle. You may order supplies from us other than the goods listed in our catalogue, with assurance that the order will be conscientiously and carefully executed.

We buy outside supplies in every possible line almost, and are posted on where to obtain such goods to the best advantage.

We issue a monthly catalogue with prices revised each month, and will cheerfully send it to all who may request it.

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